The Lions' Pride

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There is a reason for everything at Saint Leo

By Tara McLoughlin
News Editor

South West Florida Water Management District forces Business Affairs to make a sacrifice that will soon benefit all students.

Business Affairs announced that the Alumni Parking lot will soon be transformed into a holding pond to temporarily store and transport excess water. This decision was ultimately made due to the construction of the new parking garage. Because the parking garage is underground, the floor is considered impervious. The hard surface forces the excess water to pick up speed and conflicts with S.W.F.W.M.D. requirements to keep the volume and flow of surface water into wetlands the same after construction as before, For those who do not know, S.W.F.W.M.D must approve any changes in surface water runoff. The rules basically state that the campus is in charge of making sure that the excess water flows into the wetlands at the same rate and volume before and after any land modifications. The only way for the University to guarantee the approval of S.W.F.W.M.D was to place a holding pond in the Alumni parking lot.

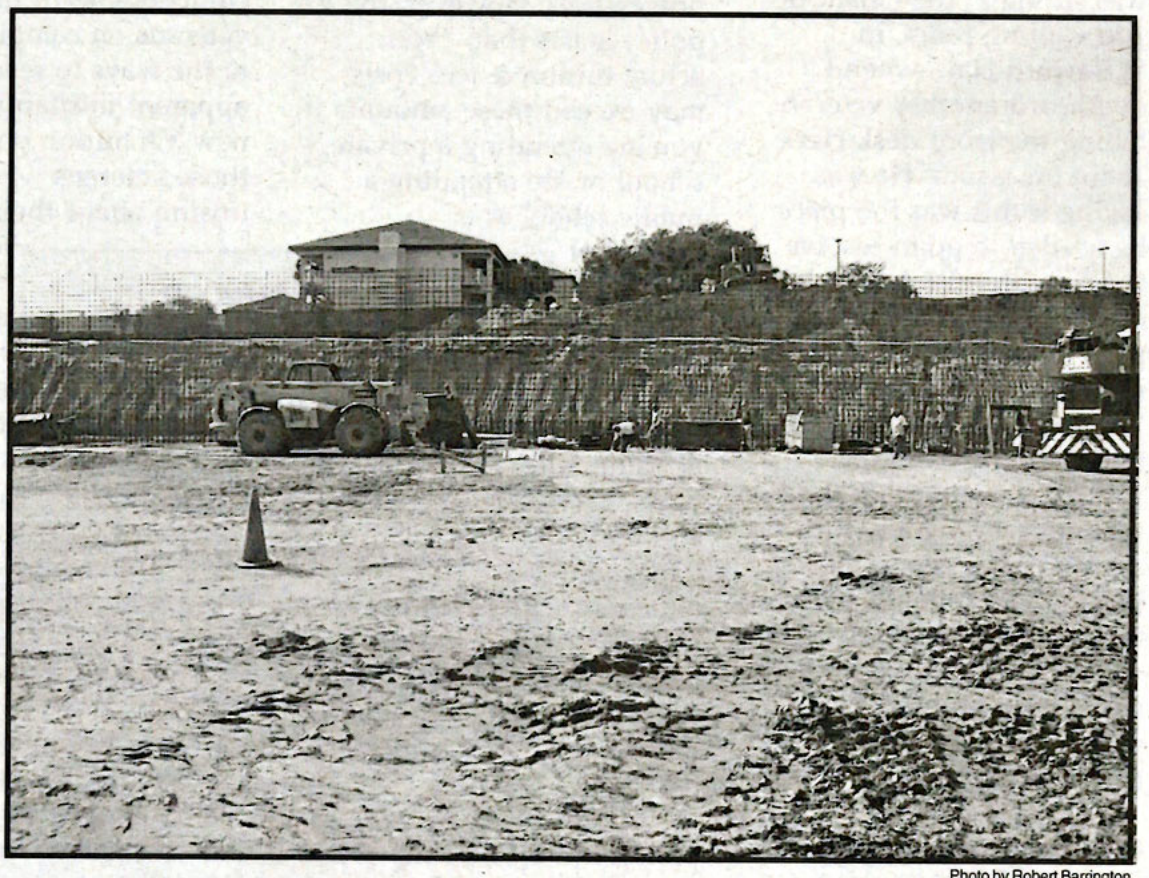

Photo by Robert Barrington

Because of the construction on the new parking garage, the parking lot by Alumni Hall will be knocked out to create a pond for run-off.

S.W.F.W.M.D controls the way the water is handled as the campus is constructed. Every surface angle has been specifically designed so that the water flows as nature intended. . There is a natural peak through the campus that directs one half of the campus runoff towards Lake Jovita and the other half towards the wetlands. Many students will notice that there are several ponds across the campus. Two of which can be found near the baseball and softball field. S.W.F.W.M.D approved these various sites. The holding ponds help to ensure that the water is redirected properly. The pond placed in the Alumni Parking lot will do the same.

Mezzanini plans to keep the new holding pond as small as possible. He also plans to add an additional holding pond on the other side of the parking garage. This will help to ensure that the water flows in the direction that it is supposed to. It will also satisfy the needs of S.W.F.W.M.D.

Students may groan over the fact that they will be losing another 38 parking spots; however, they will also be happy to know that another row of parking has been added to the new parking garage. Eventually, the students will be gaining 740 additional parking spaces.

"I feel that this was a fair trade," says Frank Mezzanini, Vice President of Business Affairs.

Students should know that each spot within the parking garage costs $17,200 to build. This will help them to deal with the sudden loss of parking spots. The 40 spots pale in comparison to the 740 spots the campus will gain. The garage will be strong enough to hold 6,000 people. Mezzanini also just recently rented space from the Abbey, so that all contractor vehicles can be moved off campus. They are now parking across the street. By doing this, he freed up at least 225 parking spots.

Mezzanini restates that he did not create the pond out of spite.

"Believe it or not, I do actually care about the students and where they park," said Mezzanini.

This is why he decided to push the construction back as late as possible. He did not want the students to lose the parking. Despite this, he does explain that the students will soon gain a greater reward with the new parking garage.

Show some love this Valentine's Day and donate blood

By Danielle Ferguson
Staff Writer

Saint Leo University is known for its close relationship with BloodNetUSA, with a focus on the core value of responsible stewardship. Throughout the academic year the university hosts numerous blood drives in association with the charity, and with Valentine's Day approaching there is a push for one to not only give their heart, but also to consider giving some blood.

Last month the University hosted a blood drive outside of the Caf on Jan. 27 for any willing Saint Leo donors. However, on average, only 50 of the approximate 2,100 students enrolled on campus actually participate. The aim is to turn this around and get more and more students actively involved in 'responsible stewardship' and giving back to their community.

So why should a Saint Leo student donate blood? There are plenty of reasons to donate blood; however, when it comes right down to it, donating blood truly is a lifesaver. From tiny infants in Neonatal Intensive Care Units, to elderly individuals needing a vital surgery for one last chance at life, blood donations go on to help all sorts of people from all different ethnic backgrounds, ages and walks of life.

Blood donations are constantly in demand, as donated blood can only be used for several weeks in most cases. Usually hospitals are unable to know how much blood of a certain type they will require to help their patients, this is especially true when a large-scale disaster takes place, as there will be a dramatic increase in the demand for blood. Saint Leo students can help resolve this issue by donating every eight weeks when the blood donation vans arrive on campus.

Student donations can help ensure that ill and injured individuals receive the medical attention and care they need. It's important to note that it's not just trauma patients that need blood. Blood donations benefit premature babies, cancer patients, individuals with sickle cell anemia and individuals undergoing surgery. Blood is perishable and it cannot be stored for any extended length of time , therefor regularly donating blood can help ensure that supplies are available on an ongoing basis.

See Page 5 "Donate Blood"

Opinions

Department of Veteran's Affairs drops bomb

New VA tuition policy leaves Saint Leo Vets high and dry concerning tuition

By Brooke King
Entertainment Editor

Last Monday morning I was sitting in the Financial Aid waiting room, in St.Edward Hall, when I overheard another veteran telling the front desk clerk about his issues. He was asking if this was the place he needed to go to resolve issues with tuition. The look on his face was a mixture of panic and uncertainty. In his hand, he held the same Veteran Affairs (VA) letter that I had received on Saturday, stating that the VA was not sending any tuition assistance for this semester. While I was relieved to know that I was not the only veteran that this was happening to, I began to wonder how such a mix up had occurred at all.

According to Alexis Gilliard, VA Certifying Official for Saint Leo, this issue stemmed from an adjustment in the VA's policy. This policy states that certifying officials, on campus colleges, cannot certify attendance for tuition until after the add/drop period. For veterans that attend Saint Leo, the VA pays for either some, or most of their tuition, depending on the eligibility of their benefits. However, most veterans were advised, as was I, to take out student loans. This was to be done as a precaution, just in case the VA did not pay for all of their tuition. Since Saint Leo is a private university, VA's Yellow Ribbon Program helps to reimburse veteran students for tuition and fees that accrue from attending such universities. However, the VA policy states that, "Your actual tuition & fees costs may exceed these amounts if you are attending a private school or are attending a public school as a nonresident student." This means that for veterans at Saint Leo, students loans are almost always needed to cover the remaining cost of tuition and fees.

> ***"Some veterans on campus are being urged to reject their student loans, so when the veterans' attendance is certified, the tuition and fees that are supposed to be covered, will in fact, be covered."***

As a result of the new policy, initiated by the VA on Aug. 1, 2011, veterans on campus who took out student loans to cover the remaining balance on their accounts found that Financial Aid had taken all the loans and applied them to their account. This caused some veterans on campus, me included, to panic. However, according to Gilliard and Financial Aid, there is a way to resolve the tuition debacle. Some veterans on campus are being urged to reject their student loans, so when the veterans' attendance is certified, the tuition and fees that are supposed to be covered, will in fact, be covered. This is because the amount stated in the veterans student account will reflect the amount needed to bill the VA. While this can seem cumbersome to most veterans on campus, it is one of the ways to resolve the apparent mishap with the new VA tuition policy. As for those veterans who are still unsure about their tuition, fees, and housing allowance, they are encouraged to call and/or see their certifying official on campus for information about their specific student account. Veterans at Saint Leo should also be aware that the housing allowance policy has changed as well. The new VA policy states, "Beginning August 1, 2011, break (or interval pay) will no longer be payable under MGIB-AD except during periods your school is closed as a result of an Executive Order of the President or an emergency (such as a natural disaster or strike). For example, if your fall term ends on December 15th and your Spring term begins January 10th, your January housing allowance will cover 15 days in December and your February housing allowance will cover 21 days in January." For veterans this means that housing allowance will not be acquired to the months partially in school until the following month. For some veterans this presents the problem of not being able to pay for necessary expenditures during the beginning of their school semesters. The new policy, while logically sound, presents a harsh reality for some veterans who are enrolled in school full-time and do not work, have children in daycare, or have house or car payments that need to be made on time.

While the battle between the VA and the veterans under the Post 9/11 GI Bill rages on, it seems that this new policy by the VA that is suppose to help veterans is only hindering them by adding undue stress as they try to achieve their education goals at Saint Leo and other institutions. Stepping back from the situation, veterans should realize that even though the educational help that they are receiving is a benefit given to them by the government in order to thank them for their service, not every helpful service is beneficial. In addition, such gratitude should not be given willingly on a bended knee. It should, however, be cautiously accepted and question by the public as to how mismanaged benefits are a true reflection of the government's appreciation for meritorious service in the armed forces.

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OPINIONS

Photo by Robert Barrington

Plant Operations:

Solutions To Saint Leo's Growing Pains

By Robert Barrington
Advertising Editor

From controlling pests, minimizing power outages, and finding solutions for the shortage of parking spaces, Plant Operations is here to help. Jose Caban, Director of Plant Operations, is constantly planning and implementing solutions to everyday problems on the Saint Leo campus. Caban and his staff are constantly maintaining and improving operations in order to ensure that students on campus are safe and comfortable. Even though large scale construction is occurring, Caban's staff continues to keep University campus clean and beautiful.

Back in August 2011 there was an infestation of crazy ants that were seen in huge numbers throughout campus and even in the dorms. Crazy ant colonies had more than one queen and would quickly multiply. Caban and his staff quickly took action, and with the help of Terminix Pest Control, the plan was to take control at Marmion/ Snyder and slowly push the ants off campus. By October 2011, the ant infestation problem was gone.

Last semester, due to a power outage, there was a glitch in the system that turned off the cooling systems to parts of campus. Saint Leo has generators that supply emergency power within 45 seconds of a power outage, but the cooling system did not turn back on, and some dorms and classrooms had to endure extended periods without air conditioning. Plant Operations contacted Tampa Bay Trane and they implemented a new system to avoid having air conditioning problems that last for extended periods of time.

Lack of parking spaces appears to be one of the biggest complaints from students, and some students are late to class because they have to wait over 20 minutes to find a parking space. Caban is aware of the problem and has some short-term solutions planned while we wait for the 740 space parking garage to be built under the new soccer field. Just east of the softball parking lot, Plant Operations has opened up 62 overflow parking spaces on the grass, and marked the area with signs. There are many construction workers on the Saint Leo campus, but they are not taking up any student parking spaces, and have been assigned parking spaces off of Highway 52.

With the new residence halls, soccer field and parking lot, there is a lot of construction going on. Dirt and dust is kept to a minimum, and is constantly being cleaned up. "There are very few people who can maintain construction at this level and keeps the campus looking as nice as it is," said Caban, referring to his staff. Saint Leo is a beautiful university, and Plant Operations keep the grass green all year long, while maintaining a finely manicured and clean campus.

What will you do after graduating college?

By Robert Barrington
Advertising Editor

Students attend college to study subjects they are passionate about, and/or they attend to learn job skills that will land them a job after graduation. However, the extended recession has changed the way students are thinking about attending a university. Many students attend universities because their parents want them to attend, and a four year degree has just become an extension of high school. Despite the fact that the recession has decreased the amount of available jobs, the universities are seeing record enrollments. When one does the math, something does not add up.

In the past, a four year degree in math, science, or engineering and technology would land a graduate a pretty good job. However, due to global outsourcing and an extended recession in the United States, there are only a fraction of the jobs that there used to be, but still the universities are cranking out graduates in greater numbers. Industries such as manufacturing and technology have been sent overseas so companies can make record profits, leaving the engineers and scientists in the United States with the short end of the stick. It's not only engineering and technology students who suffer from the lack of local major manufacturing, but others as well. This is because major manufacturing creates jobs that require graduates from fields in accounting and marketing, health management, psychology, sociology, education, and criminal justice; just to mention a few. When industry leaves, the jobs leave as well, leaving educated people scratching their heads, reaching in their pockets, and wondering how they are going to feed their families.

A recession may be the best time to go on to graduate school. With so many prospective employees holding four year degrees, and with a shrinking job market, employers are looking for higher educated and better qualified employees. Competition has increased, and unless graduating students are able to land a job in their field of study, it makes good sense to attend graduate school. If one graduates with a four year degree and is unable to find a job in their field of study, it will be more difficult to find a job in their field when the economy is better. This leaves the question, why not invest in a master's degree and take the chance of landing a better job when the economy gets better?

If a student does not have the funding to attend graduate school, they have the luxury of being offered financial aid. Many people do not want to be burdened with loans, but Americans are fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to borrow today, get the higher education that will increase the chances of a better job, and pay for it later. If a student wants to work and still pursue a graduate degree there is the option of pursuing it online, an option available here at Saint Leo.

The future does not look as bad as it seems, and waiting things out in graduate school may be the best option for a number of reasons. Recessions do not last forever, and the baby boomers will soon be leaving the work force. Many manufacturing jobs are coming back to the United States, and at some point in the future, we may have increased economic growth. The retired baby boomers will be leaving jobs that will need to be filled, and the increase in manufacturing will require highly educated and skilled employees. Coming out of graduate school will not only make someone a more knowledgeable person, but will also make them a more qualified employee.

Local News

Vote for Bobby Sullivan:

Director of Campus Security and Safety running for Hernando County Sheriff

By Danielle Cortes
Staff Writer

"I believe that my education, experience, successful record, and deep roots in the community make me the right person for the job", says Bobby Sullivan, Executive Director of Campus Security and Safety .

As most of Saint Leo University may or may not know, Bobby Sullivan has decided to enter the elections for Hernando County Sheriff. Sullivan has been very involved on campus and has been really looking forward to giving back to the community. Being a Hernando County resident himself, Sullivan believes he can give back to his home town by giving the residents of Hernando County a sheriff that is one of their own and will fulfill his duties.

It was a difficult decision to render and I did much praying before deciding that it was truly time to give back to the community that is as much a part of me as my DNA.," said Sullivan.

When asked about the support that he had received, Sullivan gave great praise. His campaign group had spent about three months gauging the amount of support that they would be able to rally, and their expectations were surpassed.

> *"People here are not simply Students, Faculty, and Staff, but they are family. I have never experienced such support, love, and adherence to core values as I have here," said Sullivan.*

Many of the students from Saint Leo University were more than willing to help out at volunteer projects for Sullivan and many of his campaign events. Sullivan says he watches the support base grows daily.

Sullivan does have confidence that he has enough knowledge and experience to really give the people great service if given the opportunity. His main fear is that the crime rate has spiked exponentially since the current Sheriff was appointed in 2011, and that it will continue to increase. Sullivan is hoping that if given the chance he can give the people more security and bring down the crime rate.

"My guarantee is to reduce the composite crime rate by 50% during my first three years in office," says Sullivan. He plans to reveal more about this plan at a later date.

For some it has yet to sink in that this campaign could mean that Sullivan will no longer be at Saint Leo University. Of course with his duties comes the sacrifice of leaving the students, staff, and faculty that have been part of his life for so many years.

"This is the tough part. Saint Leo is the finest place I have ever had the pleasure of working.

Sullivan deeply wishes to remain at Saint Leo and fulfill his duties as Sheriff, but if appointed he would not be able to fully commit to his duties in either position. Sullivan also thanks the Criminal Justice department for letting him pick their brains on the matter constantly, and for their support as well.

As we see Sullivan enter the elections we wish him well, remembering that he is a member of the Saint Leo community, bringing pride to the University's name. He has gone out of his way to work with the community here at Saint Leo, and it has been both an enlightening and humbling experience for him.

"I have been indelibly touched by SLU, especially the students. Remember this is also my alma mater for undergrad and grad school. My heart will always be here," said Sullivan.

FLU SHOTS: Panacea, or Medical Profit?

By Robert Barrington
Advertising Editor

Anyone who has ever come down with the flu has experienced the miserable feeling of muscle aches, fever, headaches, a runny nose, sore throat, and vomiting and/or diarrhea. Medical professionals recommend that everyone from six months of age and older have a yearly flu shot. As a student, coming down with the flu can be disastrous because the lack of energy and miserable feelings one experiences will interfere with their schoolwork. When one has they flu also become very contagious and spread the flu to many others in their presence.

There is no doubt that coming down with the flu can make someone feel bad, and the flu can have serious complications ranging from sinus infections to life-threatening pneumonia, but will the yearly flu shot work? The flu shot contains small amounts of dead flu viruses that are injected into the body. The theory behind the flu shot is that your own body will create an army of antibodies that will kill live flu viruses. Each year medical professionals try to predict which strains of flu will be attacking us, such as swine flu, bird flu, and many other strains. They match the yearly flu shot with specific flu they predict will attack us, and by taking the yearly flu shot, our bodies should be able to fight off the flu.

Flu vaccine has been in the United States since 1945, but besides dead flu viruses, what else is in the vaccines? Flu vaccine may contain thimerasol, antifreeze, formaldehyde, carbolic acid, neomycin and/or streptomycin. Thimerasol is a preservative that is 50 times more poisonous than mercury, and has been suspected of causing autism in children, and other disorders such as MS, ADD, and speech and language problems. Neomycin and streptomycin are antibiotics, while antifreeze, formaldehyde, and carbolic acid are poisons.

There was a huge swine flu vaccination campaign that took place in 1976. The swine flu killed only one person, but the vaccine killed 25 people and crippled hundreds more. People sued the government for $1.3 billion dollars. Now, vaccine companies and federal officials cannot be sued if vaccines cause harm to you or your children. According to experts, flu vaccines are safe and effective, and when flu vaccines are accurately matched to predicted flu viruses, there are fewer deaths caused by the flu that year.

Some may find it comforting to know that the government cares about the people's health, but are all the companies promoting the flu vaccine just being altruistic, or is there a little something in it for them? Hospitals, doctor's offices, schools and universities offer flu shots, but so do many stores with pharmacies. Some insurance companies reimburse doctors up to $70 per shot, and the vaccine is sold to other companies for a fraction of what they charge customers.

Millions of people get their yearly flu shot and they don't experience any side effects, and according to the medical experts, flu shots help prevent the flu and save many lives every year. As a student, one does not want anything interfering with their school work and weekend plans, so the flu shot may be an option.

Campus News

Improvements in the School of Arts and Sciences

By Brooke King
Entertainment Editor

The School of Business received a major facelift in the form of a building, as did the School of Education and Social Services, there are also plans in the works for Crawford to be bulldozed and resurrected in the form of a new building. However, students who are not affiliated with the School of Arts and Sciences would not notice that they too received a minor facelift in the form of funding and outreach into the community.

While this is not as extravagant as a new building, the newly acquired funding allows for expansion of the Arts and Sciences. For example, new labs and equipment were renovated in Lewis Hall for the Science majors and the database JSTOR was partially acquired for English majors.

Dr. Mary Spoto, Dean of Arts and Sciences, said, "We are happy, however, to finally receive funding for JSTOR. The Deans were given money in their budgets to fund JSTOR. However, the director of the library [Brent Short] thought it best to begin with a limited collection and so, we are looking forward to that expansion, since our students have been telling us nonstop how much of a tremendous resource JSTOR has been to them."

In addition to the English majors receiving new databases, the Fine Arts have received a renovation. The Art and Music minors were completely redone, adding a variety of new course like Music Technology into the curriculum. The Music Department also received a new building adjacent to Plant Operations, in which to conduct classes and private music lessons. Dr. Spoto said, "We see the direction we are going in with the program, as well as growth and cannot wait to see what will flourish in the coming years for both programs."

In addition to new buildings, equipment, and resources, the School of Arts and Sciences has gained new ground in the acquiring of students through the admissions department. While the admissions process for any student is daunting, due to having to select a major, it is especially daunting for admissions counselors because they cannot possibly be experts in all of the areas on campus. So, in an efforts to make the Arts and Sciences known to potential students of the School, a new position has been made through the admissions department to allow for more representation of the School of Arts and Sciences. The position is called the Affiliate Faculty Member for Arts and Sciences, and is currently filled by Brook McGinnis.

"She works very closely with us in getting to know all of our programs in the hope to represent accurately all of the majors in Arts and Sciences, the potentials of each major, and the career possibilities," said Dr. Spoto.

One of the challenges facing the Arts and Sciences, in terms of funding, is the lack of student enrollment within the school. This is due to common misconceptions about the majors and their career possibilities. "We always have the challenge of correcting that mistaken notion that liberal arts majors are not viable majors and so we work very hard to increase people's awareness of just how good those majors really are in teaching you logic, analysis, interpretation, critical thinking, as well as the appreciation for global awareness that a study of the liberal arts gives you as a student," said Dr. Spoto.

While the Arts and Sciences do not have fancy high tech smart boards or a newly dedicated building, the new improvements to the school have shown that the Arts and Sciences have not been forgotten nor underfunded. Showing that Saint Leo provides excellence in all of its areas of study. With new and exciting things on the horizon for Saint Leo, such as the Poet Laureate coming in early March, the L.E.D. series that is currently underway, and the University Speaker Series, Dr. Spoto invites every student to "come out and see what the School of Arts and Sciences has to offer."

Donate Blood from Page 1

Just last semester the Saint Leo baseball team set another record in donations as they kicked off the 4th Annual Blood Bowl, whereby the BloodNet's Bloodmobile accepted donations from both teams. The 4th Annual Blood Bowl presented an excellent opportunity for players and Saint Leo students to give back to others in a life-saving manner, furthering the commitment to the Core Values of Community and Responsible Stewardship. Along with the baseball team other athletic divisions on campus have also been encouraged to give blood. When interviewed, Emily Singleton, a member of the Saint Leo University tennis team, described her experience of blood donation as "...a rewarding feeling to give back something within the community especially something in which can save precious lives." Singleton also stated, "I found out I have the blood type of O which is the universal donor, meaning I can donate red blood cells to anyone. Not only was the experience educational for myself but it felt amazing to know I faced my fears for the good of others."

The general consensus amongst the students was one of positive feedback , "Part of winning is feeling that you are the best, and donating blood can give you a big personal lift, just from knowing you helped save up to three or four lives."

The same system is hoped to be achieved this semester, with Saint Leo's next blood drive being held the following month, for more information see the student activities calendar posted online. Any students who would like to become more aware of blood donation and the impact it can have on people's lives can visit the BloodNetUSA site at www.bloodnetusa.com.

The New Res-Hall: putting some rumors to rest

By Brooke King
Entertainment Editor

As the new resident hall is erected in the foreground of the campus, rumors have swirled as to what to expect with the new dorms and what is lacking from them. These rumors were addressed by Mr. Frank Mezzanini, Vice President of Business Affairs, to settle once and for all what will and will not be in the new dormitory building.

While the new dorms may not have a full kitchen, they will have a full size refrigerator and a microwave, as well as a countertop area. However, in order to compensate for the lack of a full kitchen, those students who wish to live in the new dorms will be required to have a full meal plan. Another quite distinct difference from the old dorms to the new dorm is the flat screen TV in each common area. These TVs, according to Mezzanini, "are there to build Community," which is one of the schools core values.

Each dorm room will consist of four single rooms, two bathrooms, and a common area. While some dorms will have fewer single rooms in them, they will still feature the same floor plan as the other rooms. The first floor will consist of the same layout floor plan as the other resident halls. "First floors will be open to all and have a game room, gathering space, a small theater room with a smart board/TV and projection system," said Mezzanini. Even though there will be two first floors, both building will not have the same first floor layout or the same amenities.

While the highly anticipated completion of the new residence halls has students clamoring for a new dorm room, students should remember that even though they are new, rules and regulations will not change for the residence halls, and strict rules on meal plans will factor into whether or not students will be able to live in the new dorms. The new dorms are set to be completed and open to students by the beginning of Fall 2012.

Arts & Entertainment

War Horse

By Brooke King
Entertainment Editor

Reminiscent of Wilhelm Nietzsche's philosophical view of man relative to animals, Steven Spielberg infuses a tale of how a stallion's journey through a world war not only shaped the world around him, buy emotional touched every person that he encountered. While the movie's universal message is about the horrors of war, where men and animals die side by side, there are subliminal images that depict animals dying because of the betrayal of trust between man and beast.

War Horse, originally a bestselling young adult novel, follows the journey of Joey, a farm horse that begins his journey in the English county of Devon, with his companion and friend, a young Albert Narracott (Jeremy Irvine). Living under stressed living conditions, Albert must turn Joey, a thoroughbred, into a plow horse. As the film progresses Joey and Albert form a bond closer than friendship. As World War I breaks out, Albert's father Ted (Peter Mullen) sells Joey to the Army and Albert vows that at the end of the war he will see Joey again.

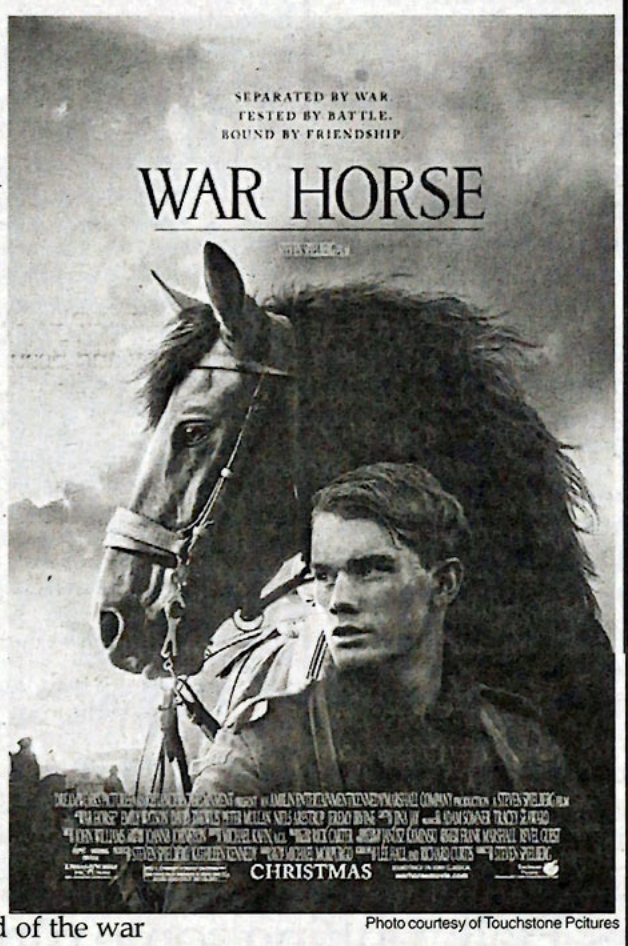

Photo courtesy of Touchstone Pcitures

In a series of chapters in Joey's life, he passes from British to German hands, then to a French farm. In the middle of the chaos is Joey, a courageous chestnut stallion, who endures the cruelty and kindness of humanity. Throughout the story, front-line warfare is embedded in a realistic depiction of the trenches and battlefields, as all hell breaks loose. While the film shows a poetic story of courage and devastation, its realistic elements of drama leave the audience wondering if this was what it was really like during WWI.

At times in the film, reality is questioned with brutal force as horses are used as weapons and whipping posts, to be used for man's destruction or to be destroyed for insubordination.

The most gripping scenes come from the horses themselves. One such scene is when the horses break loose and are seen running wildly through the battlefield,entangled in barbed wire and dead bodies. They gallop through the bombarding of mortar rounds exploded, dragging wired posts behind them. The scene, almost unbearable to watch, depicts the wire posts clinging and tearing the flesh from a horses legs and haunches. It is also the only scene in the movie where the combatents call a temporary truce, so that they may meet in "No Man's Land" in order to help aid the wounded horses.

While this is by no means a family film for any family having children under the age of twelve, it is an enduring portrait of WWI and the brutality that war brings on both animals and mankind. Spielberg does a tremendous job at portraying the suffering of both sides of the war, the innocent and the guilty. Spielberg's ability to bring conscience awareness to the bigger picture through incredible storytelling allows the audience to capture the message: while men and beast alike share the same planet, we all share the same fate. While by no means does this war story rival Spielberg's *Shindler's List*, it was made with the same care to detail and artistry that one would expect of Spielberg. *War Horse* is up for several Oscars. It is sure to be a close match for best direction, screenplay adaptation, and original score as it gives a glimpse of how "man is the cruelest animal."

Safety Suit:*These Times*

By Grant Schrantz
Staff Writer

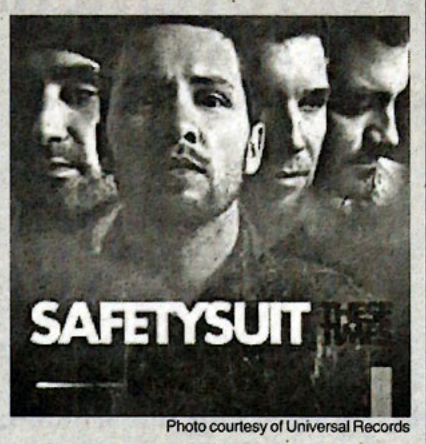

Photo courtesy of Universal Records

In all honesty, the first time I went to listen to this album, I was expecting some sub-par band that had grabbed the coattails of Alternative Rock to tag along with the relatively older movement in pursuit of fame. I was pretty close to the truth. Though slightly I can't help but notice that this band sounds like everything else, in the now, generic Alternative Rock genre that plagues radio stations in the U.S.

Safety Suit, the culprit of this catchy alt rock album, first began their musical journey in Tulsa, Oklahoma as a band called Crew. After gaining some local attention, they went into studio to record *Day After Yesterday*, which after the near future departures of guitarists, Jesse Carey and Curtis Lloyd, the band's relocated to Nashville, Tennessee and turned the album into their self-titled *EP Crew*(2004), as well as another album, *Stay*, in 2006. After being signed to Universal Records, the band changed their name to Safety Suit in order to avoid possible lawsuits and released their debut album *Life Left to Go* in 2008. Their current lineup consists of singer/rhythm guitarist, Doug Brown, guitarist, Dave Garofalo, bassist, Jeremy Henshaw, and drummer, Tate Cunningham.

Their new album *These Times*, recently released on January 3, 2012 ,was greatly anticipated by both fans and critics. The set list has all the regular staples of any other 00's alternative rock band; simple bass lines, energetic drums, guitar licks with a mild flare to them, and a singer with a sort of semi-grunge sounding style. It could be a good album to work out to or perhaps blast in the car with a few friends, but it is far from the cutting edge of music. Though some may consider it a good thing, I was rather disappointed with their uncanny musical resemblance to Lifehouse, Staind, Creed, and many others.

My final judgement on this album would be that, like the rest of the bandwagon alternative groups, this album was mediocre. In total, I'd give it a 2.5 out of 5 stars.

Ipod Playlist:

'Time to turn that frown upside down!'

By Danielle Ferguson
Staff Writer

The past 'month of Blues' (January) has left us all feeling just a tad gloomy and down in the dumps to say the least, but don't fret, it's the new month of February and what better way to elevate your mood than through the sound of music. So sit back, chill-lax, and get geared for a lift in mood sensation with a blissfully happy Ipod playlist. Don't be afraid to crack a smile all round!

1. "I Want You Back"
   Jackson 5
   Diana Ross Presents the Jackson 5

2. "Don't Stop Me Now"
   Queen
   Jazz

3. "Three Little Birds"
   Bob Marley
   Exodus

4. "Sweet Child of Mine"
   Guns and Roses
   Appitite for Destruction

5. "Hey Ya"
   Outcast
   Speakerboxxx/The Love Below

6. "Spiraling"
   Keane
   Perfect Symmetry

7. "She Moves In Her Own Way"
   The Kooks
   She Moves In Her Own Way

8. "Island in the Sun"
   Weezer
   The Green Album

9. "Walking on Sunshine"
   Katrina and the Waves
   Walking on Sunshine

10. "Smiley Face"
    Gnarles Barkley
    St. Elsewhere

The 2012 Academy Awards

Oscar Nominations:

Best Picture:
"War Horse"
"The Artist"
"Moneyball,"
"The Descendants"
"The Tree of Life"
"Midnight in Paris"
"The Help"
"Hugo"
"Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close"

Best Actress:
Glenn Close, "Albert Nobbs"
Viola Davis, "The Help"
Rooney Mara, "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo
Meryl Streep, "The Iron Lady"
Michelle Williams, "My Week With Marilyn"

Best Actor:
Demian Bichir, "A Better Life"
George Clooney, "The Descendants"
Jean Dujardin, "The Artist"
Gary Oldman, "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy"
Brad Pitt, "Moneyball"

Best Supporting Actress:
Berenice Bejo, "The Artist"
Jessica Chastain, "The Help"
Melissa McCarthy, "Bridesmaids"
Octavia Spencer, "The Help
Janet McTeer, "Albert Nobbs"

Best Supporting Actor:
Kenneth Branagh, "My Week With Marilyn"
Jonah Hill, "Moneyball"
Nick Nolte, "Warrior"
Christopher Plummer, "Beginners"
Max von Sydow, "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close"

Best Director:
Michel Hazanavicius, "The Artist"
Alexander Payne, "The Descendants
Martin Scorsese, "Hugo"
Woody Allen, "Midnight in Paris"
Terrence Malick, "The Tree of Life"

Cinematography:
"The Artist" Guillaume Schiffman
"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" Jeff Cronenweth
"Hugo" Robert Richardson
"The Tree of Life" Emmanuel Lubezki
"War Horse" Janusz Kaminski

Costume Design:
"Anonymous" Lisy Christl
"The Artist" Mark Bridges
"Hugo" Sandy Powell
"Jane Eyre" Michael O'Connor
"W.E." Arianne Phillips

Foreign Language Film:
"Bullhead" Belgium
"Footnote" Israel
"In Darkness" Poland
"Monsieur Lazhar" Canada
"A Separation" Iran

Music (Original Score):
"The Adventures of Tintin" John Williams
"The Artist" Ludovic Bource
"Hugo" Howard Shore
"Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy" Alberto Iglesias
"War Horse" John Williams

Visual Effects:
"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2"
Tim Burke, David Vickery, Greg Butler
and John Richardson
"Hugo" Rob Legato, Joss Williams,
Ben Grossman and Alex Henning
"Real Steel" Erik Nash, John Rosengrant,
Dan Taylor and Swen Gillberg
"Rise of the Planet of the Apes" Joe Letteri,
Dan Lemmon, R. Christopher White
and Daniel Barrett
"Transformers: Dark of the Moon" Scott Farrar,
Scott Benza, Matthew Butler and John Frazier

Writing (Adapted Screenplay):
"The Descendants" Screenplay by Alexander Payne
and Nat Faxon & Jim Rash
"Hugo" Screenplay by John Logan
"The Ides of March" Screenplay by George Clooney
& Grant Heslov and Beau Willimon
"Moneyball" Screenplay by Steven Zaillian
and Aaron Sorkin Story by Stan Chervin
"Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy"
Screenplay by Bridget O'Connor & Peter Straughan

Writing (Original Screenplay):
"The Artist" Written by Michel Hazanavicius
"Bridesmaids" Written by Annie Mumolo
& Kristen Wiig
"Margin Call" Written by J.C. Chandor
"Midnight in Paris" Written by Woody Allen
"A Separation" Written by Asghar Farhadi

Oscar Predictions

By Mathew Rodgers
Staff Writer

The Oscars are approaching, and this year is just as exciting as any of the previous years. With a list of great movies to choose from, The Lions Pride is here to let you know what movies to watch out for and to place our bets on who we think will go home with an award.

One film that has a lot of buzz around it is the biographical sports drama *Moneyball* directed by Bennet Miller and staring Brad Pitt and Jonah Hill. The movie details the account of the 2002 Oakland Athletics baseball team and how the general manager Billy Beane (Pitt) assembled a competitive team using statistics to overcome poor financial backing. This film is up for an academy award not only for Best Picture, but also for Actor in a Leading Role (Brad Pitt) and Actor in a Supporting Role (Jonah Hill). *Moneyball* has also been nominated for theWriting Adapted Screenplay category.

Another film to watch out for is *The Help*, which is a drama movie about Eugenia "Skeeter" Phillip and her relationship with her black maids, as she seeks to write a book from the viewpoint of the help. The movie is set in the 1960's in Mississippi and details the racism that black Americans had to face during the civil rights era. *The Help* is not only up for Best Picture, but also has a nomination for Actress in a Leading Role (Viola Davis) and Actress in a Supporting Role (Jessica Chastain). It's surprising to note that this movie was not nominated for Writing Adapted Screenplay, as it was originally a novel.

Also creating a bit of a buzz is *The Artist*, which is a silent film set in the 1920's. It details the careers of Peppy Miller and George Valentin. Miller accidentally bumps into film star George Valentin outside a film premier. The attention that the press gives Miller launches her career, while Valentin has to cope with the ushering in of films with sound and his worries that it may make him obsolete. The film is up for Best Picture, Actor in a Leading Role (Jean Durjardin) and Actress in a Supporting Role (Bérénice Bejo). *The Artist* is also nominated for an Oscar in Art Direction, Costume Design, Directing, Music (Original Score), and Writing (Original Screenplay). With all the buzz around *The Artist*, it is a safe bet that it will receive at least one, if not several Oscars.

The Tree of Life is another film up for multiple Oscars. It stars Brad Pitt, Sean Penn and Jessica Chastain. The film follows the journey of Jack (Penn) as he tries to reconcile his complicated relationship with his father Mr. O'Brien (Pitt). *The Tree of Life* is up for Best Picture, Cinematography and Directing.

Other movies to watch out for are the American version of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, starring Daniel Radcliff and Rooney Mara, which is up for multiple awards, including Actress in a Leading Role (Mara), Cinematography, Film Editing, Sound Editing, and Sound Mixing. *The Descendants* starring George Clooney is also up for several awards, including Best Picture, Actor in a Leading Role (Clooney), Directing, Film Editing, and Writing (Adapted Screenplay). Another one to watch is War Horse, which is up for Best Picture, Cinematography, Art Direction, Music (Original Score), Sound Editing, and Sound Mixing.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of all the exciting movies that are up for nomination. In the end, it is a pretty safe bet that *Moneyball* and *The Help* are going to go home with an award and it would not be too big of surprise if *The Artist* received multiple awards as well. For more Oscar coverage and news of the winners, check out *The Lions' Pride* Twitter and Facebook page.

Sports

Men's Hoops: Strong second half ends three game skid with win over Barry

By Taylor McGillis
Assistant Online Editor

Photo by Taylor McGillis

Saint Leo, Fla—The Saint Leo University men's basketball team earned a huge conference win on Saturday Jan. 26 over Sunshine State Conference foe Barry University after a strong second half in which it overcame a 9-point halftime deficit. Despite Barry's hot start and Saint Leo's meager first half performance, the Lions came out on top 63-51. The win moved the Lions to 9-9 overall and 3-5 in the SSC.

The Barry Buccaneers came out of the gate quickly to start the game much from the help of shooting guard Evan White, who went 6-8 from the field and 4-6 from beyond the arc, tallying 18 first half points. The Lions struggled offensively for much of the first half, settling for long 3-point shots and were never able to establish an inside presence. A big help came when forward Regis Schafer provided a spark off the bench for the Lions as he sunk two shots from 3-point land and kept the Bucs lead a manageable one as the Bucs went into the half with a 34-25 lead.

The second half proved to be much different than the first as Saint Leo got off to a quick start and was able to contain Barry's White to only 6 points in the half. Along with the stellar defensive performance the Lions also began to heat up from the field, shooting 56% for the half including five shots from 3-point territory. It was a career night for Schafer as he hit 4-7 shots from behind the arc tallying his career high with 12 points. Lions leading scorer on the year Trent Thomas continued his ways, leading the team with 15 points, 13 of which he scored in the second half. Barry's White led all scorers with 24 points.

It truly was a tale of two halves and postgame Head Coach Lance Randall gave his thoughts on the team's performance and what made the difference in the second half. "I thought we came out in the first half and we looked a little tired and Barry shot the ball well. Evan White did a great job and when you've got a player like that, you've got to find a way to slow him down. In the second half we did two things--a much better job of protecting the basket, and we also ran our offense better with good ball movement, we screened better and we got good shots. When we didn't make shots we were on the offensive glass hard and that was a huge part of us getting some separation."

Barry moved to 9-10 overall and 4-4 in the SSC after the loss. The win over Barry ended a three game losing streak for the Lions (9-9, 3-5 SSC) who are currently in 8th place with eight games remaining on the year.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers hire Schiano away from Rutgers

By Taylor McGillis
Assistant Online Editor

Three weeks after the firing of Raheem Morris at the end of a disappointing 4-12 year, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers announced the hiring of the now former Rutgers University head coach Greg Schiano as the 9th head coach in organization history.

"We are thrilled to introduce Coach Schiano as the new head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers," Bucs co-chairman Joel Glazer said in a statement. "During our thorough search, we met with numerous impressive candidates, but Coach Schiano surely distinguished himself. From his leadership skills to his impressive track record, he is, simply put, the right man for the job."

Right man for the job or not, the announcement came hours after flirtations ended between the Buccaneers and University of Oregon coach Chip Kelly. After numerous reports emerged that the Bucs were near an agreement with Oregon's Kelly, he spurned the team when a statement released by the school stated: "I am flattered by the interest of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' organization. I enjoyed meeting with the Glazer family and general manager Mark Dominik but after numerous discussions, I concluded that I have some unfinished business to complete at the University of Oregon." The rejection from Kelly has to be a blow to the Bucs as Kelly's high-octane offense could have sparked a dwindling fan base that is hungry for an exciting, competitive team.

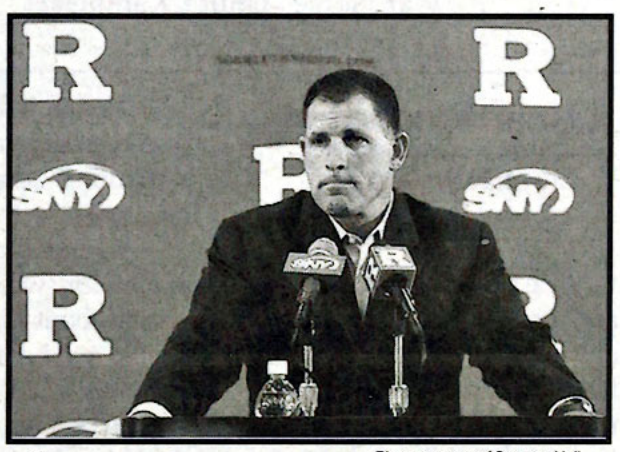

Photo courtesy of Spencer Hall

Schiano served as the head coach of Rutgers University from 2001-2011, turning around a program in which he led to bowl games in six of his last seven years with the school while compiling an overall record of 68-67. He was the recipient of the 2006 national Coach of the Year award after leading the Scarlet Knights to an 11-2 season. Prior to taking over the head job at Rutgers Schiano was the defensive coordinator at the University of Miami from 1999-2000.

Schiano began his collegiate coaching career as a graduate assistant at Rutgers in 1989 and later served as multiple defensive positions at Penn State from 1991-1995, at which point he took over as a defensive assistant with the Chicago Bears where he coached until 1998.

The 45-year-old New Jersey native is known as a defensive minded coach who stresses physical play, discipline, and accountability.

"Our team will be built around a humble, unselfish attitude of sacrifice. It's hard to find that in today's world, but that's who we'll be," Schiano said in his introductory press conference. "We've got to reconnect with our fan-base and I can't wait to do it, because we have to earn your trust. This Buccaneer football team will earn your trust, it will earn your trust on the football field, will earn your trust in the community. We'll be something you're proud of."